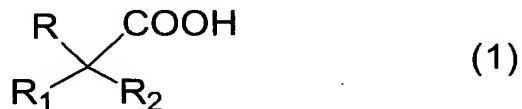


Abstract

The present invention discloses a process for preparing a nitrile compound, a carboxylic acid compound or
 5 a carboxylic acid ester compound represented by the formula (2):



wherein R represents a cyano group, a carboxyl group or an ester group, R¹ and R² each represent a group
 10 which does not participate in the reaction, which may have a substituent, and R¹ and R² may be combined to each other to form a ring,
 which comprises subjecting an acetic acid compound represented by the formula (1):



15 wherein R, R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above,
 to decarboxylation in the presence of a metal catalyst.